

HONORING ALBERT M. ELÍAS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert M. Elías, who sadly passed away on October 16, for over 60 years of service to organized labor and to the progressive political community in Tucson and Pima County as a member of the International Typographical Union/Communications Workers of America Local 7026.

Albert M. Elías represented the highest ideals of the labor movement. While others talk about the need for a strong labor movement to protect and enhance the lives of working people, Albert, for more than 60 years, worked to advance these goals. While others have talked about how Pima County and southern Arizona need progressive political success to empower the ordinary and disadvantaged among us, Albert worked long hours helping politicians and movements advocate on behalf of these people.

Using the printing skills he honed for most of his life, the knowledge he gained over more than six decades of how the printed word can help realize worthy goals, and the personal contacts his honesty, integrity and goodwill forged, Albert achieved much and has helped others achieve even more in advancing political movements, and the labor movement in particular.

Albert, a fourth-generation Tucson native, joined the International Typographical Union of his maternal grandfather Francisco S. Moreno in January 1954 and committed himself to a career in the printing trade. Albert believed that union membership would improve the professional quality of his work as a printer, and enable him to develop meaningful, long-term relationships in his community that would benefit himself and his family, as well as his union brothers and sisters. Union membership, he believed, also would provide him with better income and with vacations and holidays off to spend quality time with his family. It was Albert's goal to provide his children with the wherewithal to excel in education through high school and go on to college if they desired. Time proved Albert to be correct. All three of the children of he and his wife, Viola Baine, are college graduates who are serving others in pursuit of their careers.

Albert and his sister Aida Elías, the children of Alberto Spring Elías and Ermelinda Moreno Elías, always lived their lives as Christians and were dedicated to their religious faith. Albert maintained an active lifetime role in his Roman Catholic parish, based at St. Augustine's Cathedral in downtown Tucson. He served for many years as a member of its Parish Council.

Albert's interest in the printing trade went back to his childhood in the 1930s. His grandfather Moreno had begun publishing the Spanish language *El Tucsonense* weekly newspaper as a member of the Typographical Union in 1915, but he died an early death in 1929. *El Tucsonense* continued publication under ownership of his wife, Rosa E. Moreno, and with the help of her five children—Ermelinda, Gilberto, Federico, Arturo and Elías. Before Albert's 10th birthday he was delivering *El Tucsonense* by bicycle to the Latino

barrios that dominated much of downtown Tucson. He worked his way into the print shop during his years at Tucson High School to be a "printer's devil," sweeping the floors, cleaning presses, and remelting the lead used to make ingots for the shop's linotype machines.

After graduating from Tucson High School in January 1946, Albert went to the Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles to learn more about printing. After completing those studies in 1948, Albert went to work in the print shop that published *El Tucsonense*, now being run by his uncle Arturo Moreno. That ended in late 1951 when Albert was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in the infantry for two years before being honorably discharged. After his discharge, Albert returned to Tucson. But instead of rejoining *El Tucsonense*, Albert sought membership in the Typographical Union as a journeyman, skipping apprenticeship because of his experience. His skills earned him a position as a linotype operator in early 1954 with the Tucson daily newspapers, *The Arizona Daily Star* and *Tucson Citizen*.

A bitter and ultimately unsuccessful Typographical Union strike at the *Star-Citizen* in 1966, over job-depleting automation and the companies' rejection of the union's demand for a pension plan, ended Albert's 12-year stint with the daily newspapers. Fortuitously for Albert, *El Tucsonense* was in the process of folding and he and a partner, Oscar Araiza, bought his uncle's printing shop. Araiza retired in 1991 and Albert ran *Old Pueblo Printers* alone thereafter.

Upon taking control of the business in 1966, Albert and his partner began doing printing work for Tucson-area labor union locals and Democratic Party candidates for political office. One of the first campaigns for which Albert's shop printed the political literature was one of the late U.S. Representative Morris K. Udall's bids for office. Udall continued to use his services after that, as did Robert Kennedy for his assassination-truncated 1968 presidential campaign. Albert printed campaign materials for Raul Castro, who was elected as the first Latino governor of Arizona; for Ed Pastor, who was elected as the first Latino Congressman from Arizona; and for longtime Pima County Supervisors Sam Lena and Dan Eckstrom. I, too, came to Albert for my printing needs when I first launched what became a 12-year stint on the Tucson Unified School District Board. I continued to use Albert's services through 13 years on the Pima County Board of Supervisors and, finally, on my 2002 bid for Congress.

During his career, Albert supported labor leader César Chávez of the United Farm Workers, he supported the efforts of local Latino activists to get their fair share of federal funds to improve the homes and neighborhoods of their people, and he supported a landmark lawsuit forcing Tucson Unified School District to desegregate its schools. Albert was always fighting battles against those who seek to use their financial influence to their own advantage—and at the expense of ordinary working people.

Albert M. Elías deserves special recognition, honor and respect for his six decades of union membership—and for his meritorious achievements during that time on behalf of working people and the less fortunate of Pima County and Southern Arizona. We will miss him dearly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 557, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

CELEBRATING TAP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, community action agencies in the United States have established a history of giving individuals a much-needed hand-up out of poverty. Whether it's assistance with housing, finding a job, providing early childhood education, or even offering help to those recovering from abuse or addictions, community action agencies are the "Golden Rule" at work. I wish to honor an agency located in the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia that is actively fulfilling this mission.

Originally founded as Total Action Against Poverty by Cabell Brand, Total Action for Progress—known in Roanoke, Virginia simply as TAP—is celebrating its 50th anniversary as the Roanoke Valley's sheltering umbrella. Cabell Brand saw poverty was due to more than just an individual's financial circumstances. He believed that in order to be a full participant in society, an individual needed opportunities to improve one's life. A half-century later, Cabell Brand's vision of an organization that would allow someone to "TAP Into Hope" remains at work.

Cabell Brand met with Sargent Shriver when he was planning to form an organization that could grow from the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. A partnership in the community formed the non-profit that came to be called TAP, offering assistance to low-income individuals living in the area. Community action, the likes of which Brand and Shriver dreamed of, came to life in the Roanoke Valley and was embraced by the local governments.

Since taking office, I have come to understand the benefits that community action agencies provide to the downtrodden. In turn, I have enjoyed every opportunity I have had to work with this organization as they have displayed the "can-do" spirit that has helped transform TAP into one of our country's most successful community action organizations.

From its roots in Roanoke, TAP now serves men, women, and children in 11 localities in western and southwest Virginia. The focus is on self-reliance and self-determination with TAP's dedicated staff providing a unique brand of strength. It's that strength that I came to see in Cabell Brand, in his successor Ted Edlich—who marked his retirement last year—and in Annette Lewis, the current President and CEO. I congratulate TAP on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to continuing to tell its story as a model for the good that can come from a sense of hope.

RESEARCH TIES GUN VIOLENCE
TO AMERICA'S ANGER PROBLEM,
EASY ACCESS TO GUNS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article:

[From National Catholic Reporter, Oct. 19, 2015]

FEWER GUNS, FEWER GUN-RELATED DEATHS
(By Vinnie Rotondaro)

Fewer guns, fewer gun-related deaths.

A simple enough concept, so knock-you-over-the-head obvious that it practically begs for an equally blunt—if totally oblivious—response, one made by plenty of pro-gun rights advocates: more guns make us safer.

But a look at the social science literature surrounding the U.S. gun violence debate shows how painfully real the gun prevalence-gun death correlation is, and suggests that it could prove very difficult to dig the country out of the hole it finds itself in.

In America today, more than 310 million firearms are estimated to be in the hands of private citizens. That is roughly 97 guns for every 100 people.

Studies regularly show that where there are more guns, there is more homicide.

Jeffrey Swanson, a Duke University psychiatry and behavioral sciences professor, and a leading expert on U.S. gun violence, believes that the more we look into the question of gun access and prevalence in society, the less myths surrounding the gun control debate will hold sway.

Some gun rights activists argue that more armed citizens will make for less crime, but “we don’t have an exceptionally high crime problem in the United States, or an exceptionally high violent crime problem compared to other industrialized countries,” Swanson said. Conversely, “we do have an exceptionally high firearm homicide problem.”

Others react to mass shootings where the gunmen are seriously mentally ill, and say that we need to fix the country’s broken mental healthcare system.

But doing so would not solve our gun violence problem, Swanson said.

“Mass shooters are really atypical,” he explained. “They are atypical of people with serious mental illnesses, the vast majority of whom are never going to be violent. And they are also atypical of the perpetrators of gun violence. Most of them don’t have serious mental illness.”

Swanson’s research points to a far more mundane explanation for the more than 11,000 firearm homicides that occur in the U.S. annually, the majority of which are the result of arguments, often involving alcohol, often occurring in underprivileged areas, or in troubled domestic settings.

America has an anger problem, and far too many angry Americans have easy access to guns.

According to a study that he and other researchers published in *Journal of Behavioral Sciences and the Law* earlier this year, near-

ly nine percent of the U.S. population has a serious anger problem and access to guns at home. The study culled data from a National Institute of Mental Health funded survey estimating the prevalence of the different kinds of mental disorders across the U.S.

“Anger is a normal human emotion,” Swanson said. “Everybody gets angry. But these are people who, when they get angry, break and smash things, and get into physical fights. . . . People who have a really short fuse,” and who can at times be “uncontrollable and destructive.”

They are wound-up, loose cannons, but not seriously mentally ill—the kind of people who should not have access to guns, but too often do.

According to Swanson’s research, about 1.5 percent of the population “have this impulsive, angry behavior and are carrying a gun around with them out in public.”

THE FINGER PULLS THE TRIGGER?

Other social science research sheds additional light on the toxic quality of guns in society.

Studies show that higher exposure to guns leads to more suicide—the leading cause of gun death in the U.S. One nationwide study found that people who committed suicide were 17 times more likely to have lived in homes with guns compared to people who did not.

Exposure to guns also leads to increased aggression. In 1967, researchers from the University of Wisconsin demonstrated the reality of a disturbing psychological phenomenon called the “weapons effect.”

The researchers sat one group of participants at a table with a shotgun and a revolver laying on it. Another group of participants were seated at a table with badminton racquets and shuttlecocks. The participants were then “angered” by an experimenter, told to ignore the objects on the table, and given the opportunity to administer a retaliatory electric shock to the level of their liking. Those seated at the table with guns opted for more aggressive shocks.

“Guns not only permit violence, they can stimulate it as well,” wrote researcher Leonard Berkowitz at the time, explaining the phenomenon. “The finger pulls the trigger, but the trigger may also be pulling the finger.”

Today, the “weapons effect” has been replicated inside and outside of laboratory settings in dozens of studies.

Brad Bushman, a professor of communication and psychology at Ohio State University who studies human aggression and serves on President Barack Obama’s committee on gun violence, performed a 2013 meta-analysis of over 50 “weapons effect” studies involving over 5000 participants.

“The mere presence of a weapon can increase aggressive thoughts, angry feelings, hostile appraisals, aggressive behavior,” he said, “just seeing one, just the object itself.”

“Weapons effect” studies tend to focus on guns. One field study found that people stuck behind a pickup truck at a green light were quicker to honk their horn if a rifle was visibly mounted to the rear window, Bushman said. Another study showed that people with guns in their car were more likely to drive aggressively than people without guns in their car.

A 2006 study published in *Psychological Science*, the flagship journal of the Associa-

tion for Psychological Science, found that exposure to guns led to “significantly greater increases in testosterone” in men.

“I think this is really an important component missing in the [gun control] debate,” Bushman said. “Just merely seeing a gun can make people more aggressive.”

“Recent research shows that humans are as fast to notice guns as they are to notice spiders and snakes,” he said, and “what this illustrates is the fact that in the human brain, there is a very strong link between guns and danger, guns and violence, guns and aggression.”

L. Rowell Huesmann, director of the Research Center for Group Dynamics and head of the Aggression Research Program in the Center at the University of Michigan, agrees.

“The research is compelling that just the sight of a gun increases the risk of violent behavior by the people who see it,” he wrote in an email. “If they have a gun available they will be more likely to use it, but, even if they don’t have a gun available, they will be more likely to behave violently in some other way.”

SLIPPERY SOLUTIONS

Vincent DeMarco, national coordinator of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, believes that “the fundamental problem as to why we don’t have more gun violence prevention is that people don’t know that there is something out there that works.”

“The problem is not knowing that gun violence is terrible,” he said, “everybody knows that. And the gun violence prevention movement has spent too much time focusing on and emphasizing that.”

DeMarco advocates for stronger handgun purchaser licensing requirements. A webpage titled “A Tale of Two States” and put out by Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence illustrates his thinking.

“In 2007, Missouri repealed its purchaser licensing and background check requirement, resulting in a 25% increase in firearm homicides and an overall 14% increase in murders over the subsequent five years,” it reads. “The rise in gun deaths is directly attributable to the repeal of the licensing and background check requirement as the firearm homicide rate during the same period did not increase in adjoining states nor did the national average rise.”

By comparison, “Connecticut . . . continues to benefit from its handgun purchaser licensing law passed in 1994. A new study estimates that the law led to a 40% decline in homicides committed with a firearm during the 10 years following the implementation of the licensing requirement.”

Swanson believes these studies offer a powerful argument for the effectiveness of background check laws in reducing firearm homicides. He would like to see more background checks take into consideration the potential for anger issues in individuals seeking a gun.

But in a country as saturated with guns as America already is, merely stopping more guns from getting out into society may not be enough, he cautioned.

“If you have a bunch of laws that are focused on making sure risky people can’t buy a gun,” he said, “but meanwhile we’ve got 97 guns per 100 people, that doesn’t mean that somebody needs to go buy a gun to commit suicide, or hurt someone else.”